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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,248	11/14/2001	Steven L. Edwards	02734.0442-02000	6909

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EXAMINER

FORTUNA, JOSE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1731

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DATE MAILED: 01/08/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/987,248	Applicant(s) EDWARDS ET AL.
	Examiner José A Fortuna	Art Unit 1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 38-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 38-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2 . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figures 1, 4 and 5 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 38-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for felts with void volumes as described on page 42, lines 24-26, i.e., with void volume between 50-3000 cm³/m², does not reasonably provide enablement for void volume of less than 50 cm³/m². The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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5. Claims 38-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by applicants admission, see page 35, lines 13-19 and pages 43-44.

Applicants teach, in the above pages, prior art belts that can be used in the invention. All of the cited belts having void volume within the claimed range, i.e., less than $1500 \text{ cm}^3/\text{m}^2$. Applicants also admit that the belts could be grooved, such as the ones disclosed by Justus and Cronin, page 43, lines 8-11, or Slater and Fitzpatrick, page 43, lines 17-22, or Madden, page 43, line 23 through page 44, line 6. It is important to note that the way in which a product is used does not differentiated the product from a prior art product having the same properties. The product could inherently be used in the same way(s) as claimed.

6. Claims 38-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kiuchi et al., US Patent No. 4,701,368, or Hartigan, Jr., US Patent No. 4,482,601, or Stigberg, US Patent No. 5,171,389, or Cronin et al., US Patent No. 4,978,428 or, Salmine et al., US Patent No. 4,496,429 or Dutt, US Patent No. 6,174,825 B1, (102(e)).

All of the above patents teach a pressing belt/felt having grooves or blinded holes as claimed. Even though the above do not explicitly teach the void volume as claimed, (at least in the claimed units), the void volume of the belt(s) are within the claimed ranges or at least the minor modifications to obtain the claimed porosity would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Note that the making and the raw materials use to make the belts of the references, are within the parameters of the belts disclosed by applicants, e.g., the belts disclosed in pages 43-44.

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It is important to note that the way in which a product is used does not differentiate the product from a prior art product having the same properties. The product could inherently be used in the same way(s) as claimed.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure in the art of "Pressing Belts/Felts."

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to José Fortuna, whose telephone number is (703)305-7498. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley S. Silverman, can be reached on (703)308-3837. The fax number for this group is (703)305-7115.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0661.

When filing a FAX in group 1730, please indicate in the Header (upper right) "Official" for papers that are to be entered into the file, and "Unofficial" for draft documents and other communication with the PTO that are not for entry into the file of the application. This will expedite processing of your papers.

José A. Fortuna
January 7, 2002


JOSE FORTUNA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 1731